

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of establishing a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

receiving BGP peering information flooded from a ~~network device~~ BGP speaker, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session;

automatically discovering at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

automatically establishing said BGP peering session with said at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the network device is a router or route reflector.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a BGP identifier.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a flooding protocol.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the flooding protocol is OSPF or ISIS.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a flooding scope.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an autosynchronous system (AS) number or confederation sub-AS number.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a force new peering flag and a new peering address.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an originator flag.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an address family identifier.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a route reflector flag.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an address family identifier.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a cluster identifier.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an old BGP identifier.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP mesh is an iBGP mesh.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

a first network device flooding BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session; and

at least one other network device that receives the BGP peering information, automatically discovers at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information, and automatically establishes said BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh;

wherein at least one of the network devices is a BGP speaker.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program that establishes a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, the computer program comprising:

computer code that configures a processor to receive BGP peering information flooded from a ~~network device~~ BGP speaker, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session;

computer code that configures a processor to automatically discover at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

computer code that automatically establishes said BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

means for receiving BGP peering information flooded from a ~~network device~~ BGP speaker, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session;

means for automatically discovering at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

a means for automatically establishing said BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of establishing a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

receiving BGP peering information from a ~~network device~~ BGP speaker, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session;

analyzing the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor;

performing a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh; and flooding the received BGP peering information to at least one other network device.

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

a first network device that receives BGP peering information, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session, analyzes the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor, performs a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh, and floods the BGP peering information; and

a second network device that receives the BGP peering information from the first network device;

wherein at least one of the network devices is a BGP speaker.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program that establishes a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, the computer program comprising:

computer code that receives BGP peering information, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session;

computer code that analyzes the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor;

computer code that performs a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh; and

computer code that floods the BGP peering information.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

means for receiving BGP peering information, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish a BGP peering session;

means for analyzing the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor;

means for performing a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh; and

means for flooding the received BGP peering information.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of establishing an iBGP (internal Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

receiving iBGP peering information flooded from ~~a network device~~ BGP speaker, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish an iBGP peering session;

automatically discovering at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

automatically establishing said iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A network system that establishes an iBGP (internal Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

a first network device flooding iBGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish an iBGP peering session; and

at least one other network device that receives the iBGP peering information, automatically discovers at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information, and automatically establishes said iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh;

wherein at least one of the network devices is a BGP speaker.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program that establishes an iBGP (internal Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, the computer program comprising:

computer code that configures a processor to receive iBGP peering information flooded from a ~~network device~~ BGP speaker, the iBGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish an iBGP peering session;

computer code that configures a processor to automatically discover at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

computer code that automatically establishes said iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A network system that establishes an iBGP (internal Border Gateway Protocol) mesh in a network, comprising:

means for receiving iBGP peering information flooded from a ~~network device~~ BGP speaker, the iBGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters used to establish an iBGP peering session;

means for automatically discovering at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

means for automatically establishing said iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh.